

Appl. No. : 09/684,150
Filed : October 6, 2000

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 7, 2003. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that prosecution has been re-opened and that the previous rejection is withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated a new rejection of Claims 1 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vanuyten (USPN 6,374,681). The Examiner also indicated, however, that Claims 2-4 and 10-13 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also indicated the allowability of Claim 19.

Applicant has rewritten the claims in order to place them in a condition for allowance, and reserves the right to seek continued review of the subject-matter of the rejected claims via one or more continuation applications.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of now canceled Claim 2, and thus asserts that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance along with Claims 3-8 dependent thereon.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 9 to include the limitations of now canceled Claim 10, and thus asserts that Claim 9 is in condition for allowance along with Claims 11-13 dependent thereon.

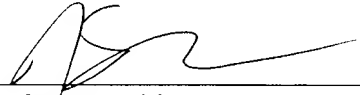
Applicant has added new Claims 20-21 dependent upon allowed Claim 19.

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Summary

Applicant asserts that Claims 1, 3-9, 11-13 and 19-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 12, 2003 By: 
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